



501.39288CX1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: H. SATO, et al.
Application No.: 10/721,230
Filed: November 25, 2003
For: A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A SEMICONDUCTOR
INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DEVICE AND A SEMICONDUCTOR
INTEGRATED CIRCUIT DEVICE
Group: 2813
Examiner: W. Vesperman

RESPONSE

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

February 10, 2005

Sir:

The undersigned notes the Office Action mailed November 10, 2004, in the above-identified application. In this Office Action mailed November 10, 2004, the Examiner has set forth twelve (12) groups of claims (that is, Groups I-XII), in Item 2 on pages 2-9; and, in Items 3 and 4 respectively on pages 9 and 10, and on page 10, of this Office Action mailed November 10, 2004, respectively requires election of a single disclosed species from Groups I-VIII, and also requires election of one Group from among Groups IX-XII. In addition, the Examiner has required a listing of claims reading on each of the elected groups respectively selected from those in Item 3 and those in Item 4 of this Office Action mailed November 10, 2004.

In response to the specific requirements by the Examiner in Items 3 and 4, Applicants respectfully elect the Group VI claims as the single disclosed species for

prosecution on the merits from the groups listed in Item 3; and respectfully elect the Group XI claims from the listed groups in Item 4.

As suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed November 10, 2004, it is respectfully submitted that claims 10-12, 14, 15 and 27 read on the elected Group VI; and that claims 21, 25, 26 and 28 read on the elected Group XI.

Thus, as required by the Examiner in Items 3 and 4 of the Office Action mailed November 10, 2004, Applicants have made the necessary elections set forth in Items 3 and 4 on pages 9 and 10 therein. Consideration of the elected species, upon further examination of the above-identified application, is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees and excess claim fees, to Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing case No. 501.39288CX1) and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William I. Solomon', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

William I. Solomon
Registration No. 28,565

1300 North Seventeenth Street
Suite 1800
Arlington, Va 22209
Telephone: 703/312-6600
Fax: 703/312-6666
WIS/sjg